



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/748,584	12/30/2003	Ralf Neuhaus	2000P24056WOUS	8952

7590 04/08/2008
SIEMENS CORPORATION
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPT.
170 WOOD AVENUE SOUTH
ISELIN, NJ 08830

EXAMINER

PEREZ, ANGELICA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2618

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

04/08/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/748,584	Applicant(s) NEUHAUS, RALF	
	Examiner Perez M. Angelica	Art Unit 2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/18/2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 21 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 12/18/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. "user entering an administration code". For purposes of examination, the examiner will reject the claims giving a broad interpretation to the new limitation.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 12/18/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

(A) the specification shows that administration is 'relating to programming or management of the functions, settings, data, etc.' on the communication device. Ferry teaches sending the call to the television in response to receiving a call...Tidwell does not teach or suggest that the communication device automatically searches for an active entertainment terminal in response to an activation of an administration mode".

In response to argument (A), the examiner would like to explain where according to the specifications administration also comprises administering, where administering can be "to manage or supervise the execution or use of"; therefore, given this general broad interpretation, the art used in the rejection still reads on the claims. Regarding the "activation of the administration mode", the examiner would like to explain where the administering of a mode can be "caller ID" mode, "message sending" mode, "message waiting" mode disclosed by Ferry; and where the communication device is the one being administered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-3, 8-16 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferry et al. (Ferry, US Patent No.: 5,805,677 A) in view of Tidwell et al. (Tidwell, US Patent No.: 6535590B2) and further in view of Sachs et al. (Sachs, US3746793).

Regarding claim 1, Ferry teaches of a system for connecting, controlling, programming and/or operating at least one communication device (figure 1, represents a system), the communication device being a telecommunication system or a telecommunication terminal (figure 1, where television and telephones are part of telecommunication systems), comprising: an interface (column 2, lines 10-20 and 51-53, where at least the telephone interface provides information, directly or indirectly, to the TV set); at least one entertainment terminal having a display unit (figure 1, items 20 and 24, where the TV set corresponds to an "entertainment terminal", where a communication device, telephone is connected to an entertainment terminal, television), the entertainment terminal connected to the communication device via the interface (figure 1, where the telephone inherently require an interface for communication with the television terminal and vice versa, the interface can be wired or wireless), where the communication device and the at least one entertainment terminal are configured to interchange information via the interface (columns 9 and 10, lines 52-62 and 33-40, respectively, where, at least, the telephone sends information regarding a call to the TV terminal and the television terminal can send a reply to the call/message), where the communication device automatically searches for an active entertainment terminal connected to the communication device upon activation of an administration mode of the communication device (column 2, lines 10-20 and 51-53; where programming the telephone to send the calls to the television corresponds to the administration mode, where the telephone is programmed to forward the call to the transfer device 10, that sends the information to the TV set, completing an indirect communication/connection),

Art Unit: 2618

the administration mode allows the communication device to be administered (column 2, lines 10-20 and 51-53; where programming the telephone to send the calls to the television corresponds to the administration mode, where the telephone is programmed, at least, to forward the call to the transfer device 10, that sends the information to the TV set, completing an indirect communication/connection) where administration information that provides information for administering the communication device is sent from the communication device to the active entertainment terminal in response to finding an active entertainment terminal (column 2, lines).

Ferry does not specifically teach where a selection menu based on the configuration information is displayed on the active entertainment terminal.

In related art concerning a telephony system that provides communication between a telephone and a TV set, Tidwell teaches a selection menu based on the configuration information is displayed on the active entertainment terminal (Column 7, lines 54-62, where the menu provides setting options as well as command options).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's system for controlling communications devices with Tidwell's selection menu in order to provide ease of use to the user.

Ferry and Tidwell implicitly teach where a code is entered by the user; e.g., when the user presses a key that corresponds to a specific function, however, the Examiner would like to introduce a new reference that is more explicit regarding the teachings.

In related art, Sachs teaches where the activation is initiated by a user entering an administration code via the communication device (abstract).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's and Tidwell's system for controlling communications devices with Sachs user's input of codes by pressing keys in order to allow the TV to administer the device by allowing them to be displayed utilizing its display.

Regarding claim 2, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Tidwell further teaches where the entertainment terminal has an input facility in order to select from the selection menu displayed on the active entertainment terminal (Figure 3, item 16, where the remote control makes the input when selecting from the pull-down menu).

Regarding claim 3, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Ferry further teaches where the entertainment terminal is a television (Figure 1, item 20).

Regarding claim 8, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Ferry further teaches where the communication device searches automatically for an active entertainment terminal connected to the system upon an incoming call (column 1, lines 14-24, column 5, lines 8-29).

Regarding claim 9, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Ferry further teaches where the communication device transmits state-dependent information to an active entertainment terminal (columns 9 and 10, lines 66-67 and 1-13, respectively; where additional information corresponds to "state-dependent information").

Regarding claim 10, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Ferry further teaches where the system has at least one associated database for insert symbols corresponding to the state-dependent information which can be inserted on the

entertainment terminal in line with the information transmitted to the entertainment terminal (columns 9 and 10, lines 66-67 and 1-13, respectively; where the data is stored in a memory, where a list of stored information corresponds to a database).

Regarding claim 11, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim. Ferry further teaches where the database is associated with the communication device (columns 9 and 10, lines 66-67 and 1-13, respectively; where the data is stored in a memory, where a list of stored information corresponds to a database and it must be associated with at least one communication device).

Regarding claim 12, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 10. Ferry teaches where the database is a photograph and/or symbol database and/or a name database (column 12, lines 8-13).

Regarding claim 13, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 10. Ferry further teaches where the at-least-one database is stored on at least one memory device, which is associated with the system (column 12, lines 8-13).

Regarding claim 14, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 13. Ferry further teaches where the memory device is a memory device is in the communication device and connected to the entertainment terminal (column 12, lines 8-13).

Regarding claim 15, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Ferry further teaches where the communications system comprises a plurality of communications devices connected to at least one entertainment terminal via the interface, and where the interface provides for communication among the plurality of

communication devices (Figure 1, where the telephone network comprises a plurality of communication devices that can be interfaced with the television set).

Regarding claim 19, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 2. Tidwell further teaches where the selection information is transmitted from the entertainment system to the communication terminal, and where the communication terminal is administered using the transmitted selection information (column 8, lines 28-38, where by selecting at item form the menu, the telephone is directed to perform the function an send it back to the screen).

Regarding claim 20, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 2. Tidwell further teaches where the input facility communicates with the entertainment system directly via a second interface (figure 1, item 16, where the remote control has a different interface such as wireless infrared interface).

6. Claims 4-6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferry in view of Tidwell and further in view of Goldstein, Steven W. (Goldstein, US Patent No.: 5,410,326 A).

Regarding claim 4, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1.

Ferry and Tidwell do not specifically teach where the interface is a wireless interface.

In related art concerning a programmable remote control device for interacting with a plurality of remotely control devices, Goldstein teaches where the interface is a wireless interface (figure 14 shows a "RF link" wireless interface between telephone module 25 and different devices).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's and Tidwell's system for controlling communications devices with Goldstein's wireless interface in order to provide mobility to the system.

Regarding claims 5 and 17, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claims 4 and 16, respectively. Goldstein further teaches where the interface is a radio interface (figure 14 shows a "RF link" between telephone module 25 and different devices).

Regarding claim 6, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1. Goldstein further teaches where the interface is a high-speed interface (column 33, lines 58-61, e.g., "high-speed modem").

7. Claim 18 and 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferry in view of Tidwell and Sachs, and further in view of Baker, Richard T. (Baker, US Patent No.: 5,948,080 A)..

Regarding claim 18, Ferry and Tidwell teach all the limitations of claim 1.

Ferry and Tidwell do not teach where the interface provides a plug and play option such that the entertainment system automatically recognizes a connection of a further communication device to the interface.

Baker's further teaches of IEEE 1394 Firewire standard and where the IEEE 1394 Firewire standard comprises the plug and play option (column 1, lines 21-34).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's and Tidwell's system for controlling communications devices with Baker's IEEE 1394 Firewire standard that comprises plug and play in order to readily connect new devices to the system without reconfiguring them.

Regarding claim 21, Ferry teaches of a method for programming a communication device (column 2, lines 10-20, where the telephone is programmed to detect and direct the calls to the television set), the communication device being a telecommunication system or a telecommunication terminal (column 2, lines 10-20, where telephones are telecommunication devices), the interface connected to at least one entertainment terminal having a display unit and connected to the communication device (column 2, lines 10-20 and 51-53, where the interface connects the telephone, directly or indirectly, to the TV set. In addition, further down it is shown where other interface can do the same); automatically searching for an active entertainment terminal by the communication device in response to an activation of an administration mode of the communication device (column 2, 10-20 and 51-53, where programming the telephone to send the calls to the television corresponds to the administration mode, where the telephone is programmed to forward the call to the telephone/transfer device 10, that sends the information to the TV set, completing an indirect communication/connection); sending configuration information that provides information to configure the communication device to the entertainment terminal by the communication device (Column 3, lines 53-67, where synchronization of devices corresponds to "configuration of devices").

Ferry does not specifically teach where a selection menu based on the configuration information is displayed on the active entertainment terminal.

In related art concerning a telephony system that provides communication between a telephone and a TV set, Tidwell teaches a selection menu based on the

configuration information is displayed on the active entertainment terminal (Column 7, lines 54-62, where the menu provides setting options as well as command options).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's system for controlling communications devices with Tidwell's selection menu in order to provide ease of use to the user.

Ferry and Tidwell do not specifically teach of a high-speed serial interface based on an IEEE 1394 firewall standard,

Baker teaches where the interface transmission is based on the IEEE 1394 Firewire standard (column 1, lines 21-34, which is another standard for interfacing communication devices to obtain high speed at low cost).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's and Tidwell's system for controlling communications devices with Baker's IEEE 1394 Firewire standard in order to obtain "high-performance multimedia connections with camcorders, televisions, stereos...", as taught by Baker.

Ferry and Tidwell implicitly teach where a code is entered by the user; e.g., when the user presses a key that corresponds to a specific function, however, the Examiner would like to introduce a new reference that is more explicit regarding the teachings.

In related art, Sachs teaches where the activation is initiated by a user entering an administration code via the communication device (abstract).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's and Tidwell's system for controlling communications devices

Art Unit: 2618

with Sachs user's input of codes by pressing keys in order to allow the TV to administer the device by allowing them to be displayed utilizing its display.

Regarding claim 22, Ferry, Tidwell and Baker teach all the limitations of claim 21. Tidwell further teaches of sending selection information from the entertainment terminal to the communication device in response to a selection from a user via an input unit; and administering the communication device using the selection information (Figure 3, item 16, where the remote control makes the input when selecting from the pull-down menu).

8. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ferry in view of Tidwell and Goldstein, and further in view of Baker.

Regarding claim 7, Ferry, Tidwell and Goldstein teach all the limitations of claim 6.

Ferry, Tidwell and Goldstein do not explicitly teach where the interface transmission is based on the IEEE 1394 Firewire standard.

In related art concerning a system for assigning received data packets to data communication channels, Baker teaches where the interface transmission is based on the IEEE 1394 Firewire standard (column 1, lines 21-34, which is another standard for interfacing communication devices to obtain high speed at low cost).

It would be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Ferry's, Tidwell's and Goldstein's system for controlling communications devices with Baker's IEEE 1394 Firewire standard in order to obtain

Art Unit: 2618

“high-performance multimedia connections with camcorders, televisions, stereos...”, as taught by Baker.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-15 and 18-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

,

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Angelica Perez whose telephone number is 571-272-7885. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on (571) 272-4177. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 571-273-8300 for regular communications and for After Final communications.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either the PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through the Private PAIR only. For more information about the pair system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). Information regarding Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system can be found at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2600's customer service number is 703-306-0377.

/Perez M. Angelica/

Examiner, Art Unit 2618

March 29, 2008

/Matthew D. Anderson/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2618